

A photograph of a mining site in a rural, arid area. In the foreground, a man in a white striped shirt and dark pants is bent over, digging with a wooden tool into a hole in the ground. He is surrounded by several other men, some in white shirts and others in blue or patterned clothing, who are watching him. One man in a white shirt and patterned pants has a bag slung over his shoulder. The ground is dry and dusty, with scattered rocks and debris. In the background, more people are visible, some sitting on the ground and others working. There are sparse trees and a clear blue sky. A yellow oval is overlaid on the bottom left of the image, containing the text 'PRAYER for the MINERS'.

PRAYER
for the
MINERS

Opening song:

LAY YOUR HANDS GENTLY UPON US

**R/ Lay your hands gently upon us,
Let their touch render your peace.
Let them bring your forgiveness and healing,
lay your hands gently, lay your hands.**

**1. You were sent to free the broken hearted.
You were sent to give sight to the blind.
You desire to heal all our illness,
Lay your hands, gently lay your hands.**

**2. Lord, we come to you through one another,
Lord, we come to you in all our need,
Lord, we come to you seeking wholeness.
Lay your hands gently, lay your hands.**

Introduction:

We want to be attentive and to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, especially in the context of mining extraction.

- If you are wearing a crucifix, or a ring or a watch.
Bring the miners, who gathered the necessary minerals for you, to this prayer.
- You may be wearing glasses or have a dental work that contains metal.
Bring the miners, who extracted the metal for your glasses and dental work, to this prayer.

- You have a Mobile Phone with you. More than 30 minerals are used for its fabrication.
Bring the miners, who extracted the coltan, gold, cobalt, copper and other precious metals for your Mobile Phone to this prayer.
- You may have left your laptop or desktop computer in your office, a tablet or other electronic devices in your room.
Bring the miners, who gathered the minerals and metals for your digital technology, to this prayer.
- If you wear a hearing aid which functions with batteries that contain metal.
Bring the miners, who gathered the minerals and metals for your hearing, to this prayer.

This holy space is now filled with many miners—men, women, and children—whose toil has contributed to our quality of life.

Thank them!

Thank God for their gift of labour!

Pray for their health and safety!

Pray for their rights and dignity!

And let us pray especially for all those who suffered and lost their life because of mining activities!

Psaume : 68 (69)

Ant. "O LORD, with your faithful help rescue me from sinking in the mire"

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold;

I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.

I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched.

My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.

It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,

that shame has covered my face.

I have become a stranger to my kindred,

an alien to my mother's children.

It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;

the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

When I humbled my soul with fasting,

they insulted me for doing so.

When I made sackcloth my clothing,

I became a byword to them.

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD.
At an acceptable time, O God,
in the abundance of your steadfast love,
answer me.

With your faithful help
rescue me from sinking in the mire;
let me be delivered from my enemies
and from the deep waters.



Do not let the flood sweep over me,
or the deep swallow me up,
or the pit close its mouth over me.

Answer me, O LORD,
for your steadfast love is good;
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.
Do not hide your face from your servant,
for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.

But I am lowly and in pain;
let your salvation, O God, protect me.

I will praise the name of God with a song;
I will magnify him with thanksgiving.

This will please the LORD more than an ox
or a bull with horns and hoofs.

Let the oppressed see it and be glad;
you who seek God, let your hearts revive.

For the LORD hears the needy,
and does not despise his own
that are in bonds.

Let heaven and earth praise him,
the seas and everything
that moves in them.

For God will save Zion
and rebuild the cities of Judah;
and his servants shall live there and possess it;
the children of his servants shall inherit it,
and those who love his name shall live in it.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen

Ant. 'O LORD, with your faithful help rescue me from sinking in the mire''

The Parable of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.



He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

"Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy."

Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."



Reflection :

“Who is my neighbour?”

By listening to the word of Jesus, by meditating on it, by practicing it, we experience that **“we are not born to be a neighbour; we become one, by choice and/or by a decision. Nobody is born a neighbour, but everybody can become one!”** (Enzo Bianchi)

Everyone is invited to ask oneself the following questions:

- **Are you a neighbour? Do you act like a neighbour?**
- **The many faces, men, women and children, who work in the mines, how to get close to them?**



The miners, men, also many boys go down underground. They dig galleries at 10 metres, at 20 metres depth: little oxygen, a lot of dust that makes breathing difficult. Lung diseases are the consequence. It is not uncommon that insecure galleries succumb to the weight of the earth and collapse on the diggers.



**We commemorate these many
unknown deaths!
Together, let us keep silent.**

Women work hard in holes filled with mud, dirty water. They work in a very dangerous environment and do whatever it takes to support their families and themselves. They are exposed to so many dangers, sexual abuse, unwanted pregnancy, hygienic problems, gender discrimination. Some of them who are pregnant experience miscarriages due to the heavy things they carry every day.



O Lord, we ask for your blessings and protection upon these women. Guide and protect them as they stand on unfamiliar land and be their refuge in times of danger.

Children, at the age of school, are standing all day long: some watching what their mothers, their older brothers and sisters are doing, others are involved in the activities. These children are exposed to all kind of dangers. What will they do in the future? We can imagine the kind of hard time they are going through every day.



O Lord, we ask for your blessings and protection upon your children. Guide and protect them as they stand on unfamiliar land and be their refuge in times of danger.

The population is confronted with pollution of the soil, groundwater, wells, rivers and the atmosphere. The use of chemicals, mercury and cyanide, causes irreversible damage and provokes toxic effects on the nervous, digestive and immune systems, and on the lungs, kidneys, skin and eyes. Exposure to mercury, even in small amounts, can cause serious health problems and is a threat to child development in the womb and at an early age.



Lord Jesus, awaken us to the awareness of this danger and help all those concerned to find ways of protection and prevention!

Many workers, men, women and children, live around the mines. Often, they built temporary huts in the middle of the bush, far away from any health infrastructure.



Lord Jesus, you have called your apostles to go and announce and live your good news. Call and send pastoral agents, your disciples of today, to this vulnerable world, often victim of exploitation and injustice!

Our Father



Prayer for our Earth: LS n°246

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

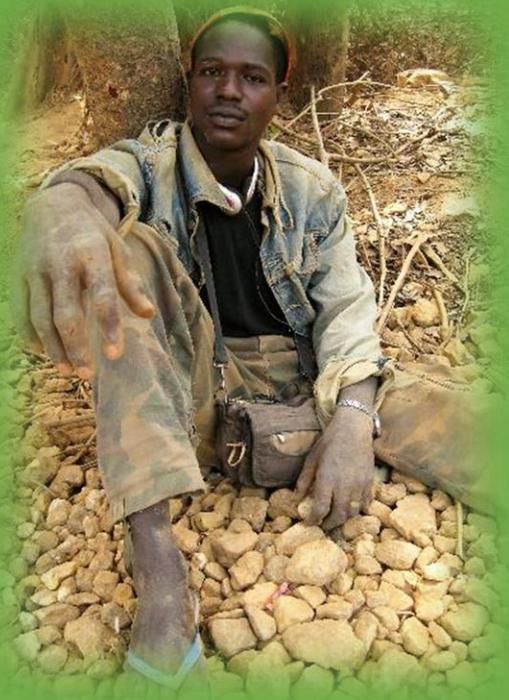
Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.



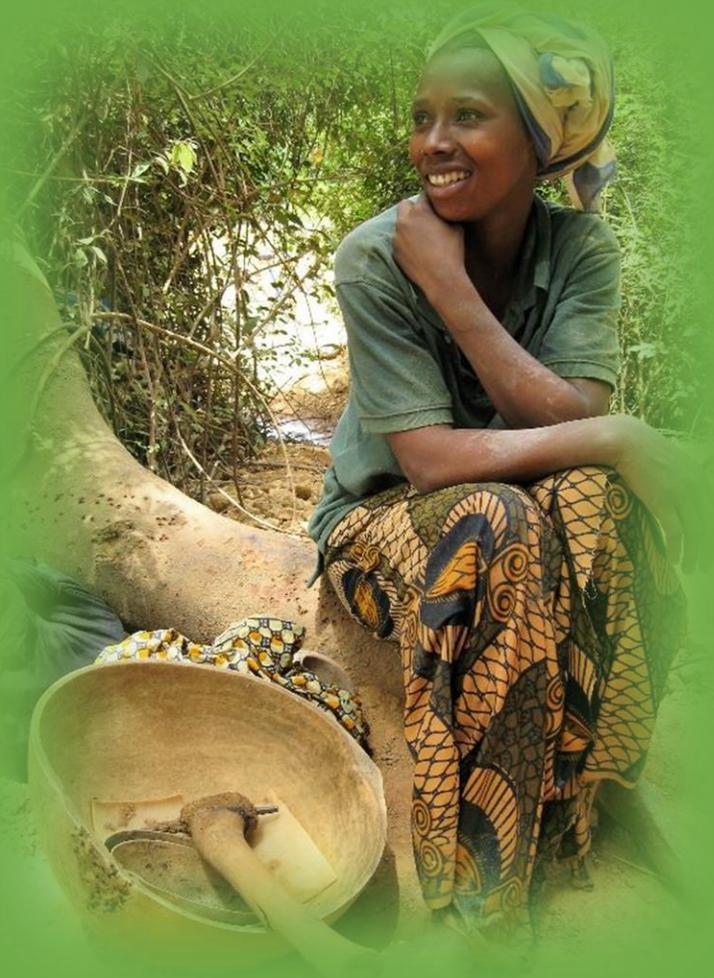
Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.



Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each
thing, to be filled with awe and
contemplation, to recognize that we are
profoundly united with every creature as
we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.



Final Blessing

Produced for:



JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION

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